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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/720,849	12/29/2000	Peter Graham Craven	DOL06504-US	6732

7590

07/18/2005

Gallagher & Lathrop

Suite 1111

601 California Street

San Francisco, CA 94108-2805

EXAMINER

TIV, BACKHEAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2151

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/720,849

Applicant(s)

CRAVEN ET AL.

Examiner

Backhean Tiv

Art Unit

2151

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/28/00.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

20

Detailed Action

Claims 1-50 are pending in this application. This is a response to the preliminary amendment filed on 12/28/2000.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C 121:

- I. Claims 1,4,5,9,10,12-15,22,26,29,31-33, are drawn encoding data at a variable rate stream, classified in class 381, subclass 23.
- II. Claims 2,6,10-13 are drawn to encoding data at a fixed rate stream, classified in class 382, subclass 251.
- III. Claims 23,24,28,30-35,37-44, are drawn to converting from a variable rate stream to a fixed rate stream, classified in class 370, subclass 503.
- IV. Claims 3,7,10,11,13,16-21,25-27,29,31-33,45-50 are drawn to decoding data, classified in class 381, subclass 22.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I is drawn to encoding data at a variable rate stream. Invention II is drawn to encoding data at a fixed rate stream. In the instant case invention II has separate utility such as encoding mp3 files to an audio CD at 40 kb/s. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions III and I are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does

Art Unit: 2151

not require the particulars of the subcombinations as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations ((MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination does not require the encoding of data for conversation of data streams. The subcombination has separate utility such as encoding mp3 files to an audio CD at 20 kb/s for half of the mp3s then encoding the CD at 40 kb/s for the other half of the mp3s.

Inventions I and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case invention I drawn encoding data at a variable rate stream. Invention IV is drawn to decoding data. In the instant case invention IV has separate utility such as having an audio CD and converting to mp3 files. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions III and II are related as combination and subcombination. Inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown that (1) the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombinations as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations ((MPEP § 806.05(c)). In the instant case, the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed because the combination does not require the encoding of data for conversation of data streams. The subcombination has separate utility such as encoding mp3 files to an audio CD at 20 kb/s.

Inventions II and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II is drawn to encoding data at a fixed rate stream. Invention IV is drawn to decoding data. In the instant case invention IV has separate utility such as having an audio CD and converting to mp3 files. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions III and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III is drawn to converting from a variable rate stream to a fixed rate stream. Invention IV is drawn to decoding data. In the instant case invention IV has separate utility such as having an audio CD and converting to mp3 files. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143)

In accordance with 35 U.S.C 133, a shortened statutory period of one month(not less than 30 day) is hereby set forth to this Office Action. See also MPEP 710.02(b).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Backhean Tiv whose telephone number is (571)272-

Art Unit: 2151

3941. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 A.M.-12 P.M. and 1 -6 P.M.


Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarni Maung can be reached on (571) 272-3939. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

On July 15, 2005, the Central Facsimile (FAX) Number will change from 703-872-9306 to 571-273-8300.

Backhean Tiv
2151
7/12/05


ZARNI MAUNG
ADVISORY PATENT EXAMINER